

**Character Education Grant**

**Specification of requirements**

**May 2016**

**REQUIREMENT FOR BID TO BUILD CAPACITY IN CHARACTER EDUCATION**

# Introduction

1. Building on the success of the 2015-16 Character Education Grants, we have committed to provide up to £6 million in grant funding for the academic year 2016-17. This is to develop new approaches or expand and evaluate existing approaches that will support children and young people to be well-rounded, confident, happy and resilient – prepared for success in adult life. As part of this, we have allocated up to £2 million to fund projects that employ a military ethos approach to developing character, for example team working and building resilience.

**Eligibility and criteria**

1. We want to fund a diversity of approaches that aim to will achieve the following outcomes:
2. Increasing the number of children aged 5-16 involved in activities and environments that promote character education; and
3. Developing key character traits, attributes and behaviours in children aged 5-16 that support academic attainment; are valued by employers; and enable children to make a positive contribution to British society.
4. When assessing the applications at each stage, we will aim to ensure that all the projects we fund are of a high quality. We will also seek to fund a range of approaches across factors such as educational phases; geographical spread; and whether they are new or established approaches.
5. We expect all projects to be able to demonstrate that they:

* Could in future be adopted or adapted by a school or schools that wish to increase the range of high quality activity that they offer;
* Involve consortium working, with involvement of several schools. We expect all projects will involve at least one school rated good or outstanding by Ofsted in the design and delivery of their project; and
* Are sufficiently replicable and scalable to be rolled out across a very large number of schools nationally.

1. We also would particularly welcome applications from projects that employ a military ethos approach to developing character.
2. The grant is intended to operate for the academic year 2016-17 (September 2016 – July 2017) and will be reviewed on a quarterly basis. Whilst we are not setting maximum or minimum amounts for bids, as an indicative guide for bidders, we would expect to award a range of smaller and larger grants in the range £50,000 - £750,000.
3. Applications are open to schools, colleges, universities, local authorities, voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE) organisations or other profit or non-profit organisations. However, proposals must be provided on a “not for profit” basis and must be designed to work within or in partnership with school(s) and/or college(s) in England. By ‘partnership’ we mean that the provider must (at a minimum) engage with the relevant school or college where each young person attends to assess whether the proposed activity or provision will help to underpin success in school and work. We would expect schools and colleges to be named in any bid.

# Guidance on drafting proposals

1. Proposals should describe:
2. How the bidder is appropriately experienced to carry out the activities described in this specification.
3. The activities that the bidder proposes to carry out to deliver the outcomes including:

* whether the project/approach is new or established;
* how schools (if a non-school organisation bids for funding) and parents will be engaged;
* the additional activities that will be offered/provided and how it will broaden children’s educational experience.

1. Why a particular approach is being taken, including the ‘theory of change’ for why it will build key character traits and the existing evidence base.
2. How the approach could be scaled up in geographical terms (how can it applied in different areas, for example, regional, urban and rural), with different cohorts (e.g. SEN or disadvantaged groups) or with children from other neighboring schools, should it prove to be successful.
3. How it will target areas and pupils who currently have less access to opportunities for developing character.
4. How the bidder has the capacity to deliver these activities within the timescales required, including a high level project plan and risk analysis.
5. The maximum amount of grant funding required for the specified activities and a breakdown of costs. If applying as a consortium this should include how the funding will be managed across the group.
6. Details of the organisation’s financial standing. The Department will require the bidder to submit the last 2 sets of audited accounts where available and financial viability checks will be carried out which will also take into account any further supporting evidence of financial standing before offering any grant funding.
7. Details of any other funding currently used to provide the same or similar activities.
8. How the project will deliver value for money.
9. Details of the organisation’s exit plan and plan for sustainability after the grant funding ceases.
10. How they will meet the general requirements for safeguarding, including CRB checks, for staff working in schools or with pupils.
11. Where relevant, how the project will use a military ethos approach to develop character.
12. Further details are contained in *‘Character Education Grant – Application Form and Guidance’.*

# Monitoring, outputs and evaluation

1. All projects will need a named project lead who will liaise with the Department. Alongside submitting invoices, the lead will be asked to provide reports, setting out key activities and milestones that have been achieved. The lead will also be expected to provide more detailed reports half way through and at the end of the grant programme and send representatives to monitoring meetings. We envisage at least two monitoring meetings and the lead organisation should take into account travel and subsistence expenses as part of the application. The Department will also send officials to visit the projects and observe their delivery.
2. Monitoring arrangements will require grant holder(s) to produce a range of information, including:
3. Evidence of outcomes achieved to support schools and colleges to develop and build character education.
4. Anecdotal testimony from teaching professionals and/or pupils on how they have benefited from the arrangements put in place by the grant holder(s).
5. Examples of case studies and good practice to be used by the Department for communicating the programme to schools and the wider public.
6. Successful bidders will be required to work with the Department for Education to monitor and evaluate delivery. The Department will support identify independent evaluators who we will fund to evaluate the projects based on an evaluation framework set out by the Department. Bidders will be expected to cooperate fully with the evaluation process, including final reporting that may take place after the grant funding has ceased.

# Funding from other grant streams

1. Each proposal will be assessed on their individual merits, including the level of funding required. However, to ensure value for money and avoid double funding for projects/activities which may contain the same or similar outcomes, we will take into account any other funding streams the provider may be receiving when assessing bids.

# Questions

1. If you have any further queries about the application process please email: [**Charactergrant2016.query@education.gsi.gov.uk**](mailto:Charactergrant2016.query@education.gsi.gov.uk)
2. Final application forms must be sent to:

[**Charactergrant2016.application@education.gsi.gov.uk**](mailto:Charactergrant2016.application@education.gsi.gov.uk)